

## CLAIMS

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1. A digital signal processor connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be controlled at least from outside, the processor comprising:

means for generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to its rate controllability;

means for transmitting the command to the predetermined transmission line;  
and

means for receiving a response to the transmitted command.

2. The processor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control, base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of the base data transmission rate.

3. The processor as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising means for recognizing, based on the received response, the rate controllability of the unit.

4. The processor as set forth in Claim 3, further comprising means for controlling the data transmission rate correspondingly to the rate controllability of the unit, having been recognized based on the received response.

5. A digital signal processor connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be controlled at least from outside, the processor comprising:

means for receiving a command for inquiry of the rate controllability

transmitted from the predetermined transmission line;

means for examining, based on the command, its own rate controllability; and

means for sending back the result of the examination.

6. The processor as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control, base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of the base data transmission rate.

7. A digital signal processing system comprising:

a first digital signal processor connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be controlled at least from outside, the first processor including:

means for generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to its rate controllability;

means for transmitting the command to the predetermined transmission line; and

means for receiving a response to the transmitted command; and

a second digital signal processor connected via the predetermined transmission line to the unit, the second processor including:

means for receiving a command for inquiry of the rate controllability transmitted from the predetermined transmission line;

means for examining, based on the command, its own rate controllability; and

means for sending back the result of the examination.

Amended

1. A digital signal processing system comprising:  
a first digital signal processor connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be controlled at least from outside, the first processor including:  
means for generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to its rate controllability;  
means for transmitting the command to the predetermined transmission line; and  
means for receiving a response to the transmitted command; and  
a second digital signal processor connected via the predetermined transmission line to the unit, the second processor including:  
means for receiving a command for inquiry of the rate controllability transmitted from the predetermined transmission line;  
means for examining, based on the command, its own rate controllability; and  
means for sending back the result of the examination.

8. The system as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control, base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of the base data transmission rate.
9. The system as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising means for recognizing, based on the received response, the rate controllability of the unit.
10. The system as set forth in Claim 9, further comprising means for controlling the data transmission rate correspondingly to the rate controllability of the unit, having been recognized based on the received response.
11. A digital signal processing method for a unit connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be controlled at least from outside, the method comprising steps of:
  - generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to its rate controllability;
  - transmitting the command to the predetermined transmission line; and
  - receiving a response to the transmitted command.
12. The method as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control, base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of the base data transmission rate.
13. The method as set forth in Claim 11, further comprising a step of recognizing, based on the received response, the rate controllability of the unit.
14. The method as set forth in Claim 13, further comprising a step of controlling the

data transmission rate correspondingly to the rate controllability of the unit, having been recognized based on the received response.

15. A digital signal processing method for a unit connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be controlled at least from outside, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a command for inquiry of the rate controllability transmitted from the predetermined transmission line;

examining, based on the command, its own rate controllability; and

sending back the result of the examination.

16. The method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control, base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of the base data transmission rate.

17. A digital signal processing method for a unit connected via a predetermined transmission line to a unit whose data transmission rate can be controlled at least from outside, comprising:

a first digital signal processing procedure including steps of:

generating a command for making an inquiry to the unit connected via the predetermined transmission line as to its rate controllability;

transmitting the command to the predetermined transmission line; and

receiving a response to the transmitted command; and

a second digital signal processing procedure including steps of:

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receiving a command for inquiry of the rate controllability transmitted from the predetermined transmission line;

examining, based on the command, its own rate controllability; and  
sending back the result of the examination.

18. The method as set forth in Claim 17, wherein the rate control includes a synchronous control, base data transmission rate control, and a variable rate control for fine adjustment of the base data transmission rate.

19. The method as set forth in Claim 17, further comprising a step of recognizing, based on the received response, the rate controllability of the unit.

20. The method as set forth in Claim 19, further comprising a step of controlling the data transmission rate correspondingly to the rate controllability of the unit, having been recognized based on the received response.